

Spring 1-15-2013

# ENG 2205-001: Introduction to Literary Studies

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*Eastern Illinois University*

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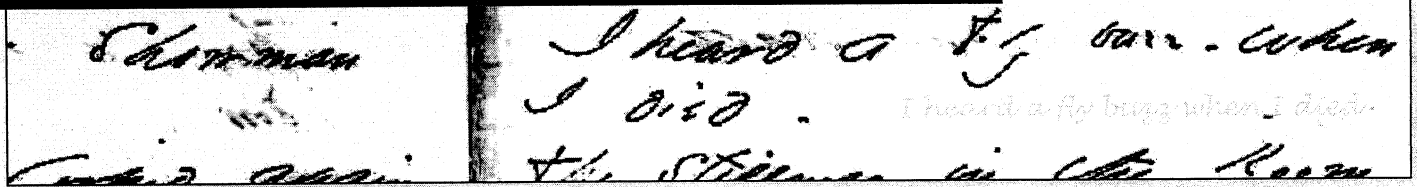
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Office Hours: T, R 9:30-11; 12:30-2  
W 9-10:30 & by appointment

### Course Description ~

This course is designed for students beginning the English major. We will consider together *what* it is that serious students of literature do, *how* we do what we do, and *why* we do literary studies at all.

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If you're just beginning the English major (which is exactly when you should take this course), you should expect the unexpected as you are introduced to some of the fundamental problems in literary studies—problems of textuality, interpretation, research, and context. Although you have taken "English" classes all your life, those classes weren't designed for English majors. In courses in the major, professors will expect you to be prepared to use advanced interpretive strategies and research tools and techniques that go far beyond what we ask of general education (or high school) students. They will also hope that you will have your own understanding of why you approach literature the way that you do, and that you will be prepared to introduce different perspectives on literary studies in class discussion and in your essays.

### Texts ~

- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*, 1847
- Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*. 1905.
- *A New Handbook of Literary Terms*, ed. David Mikics.
- *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7/e. 2009.
- E-texts of Selected Prose Fiction and Poetry

### Course Requirements ~

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| • Essay 1                | 15% |
| • Essay 2                | 15% |
| • Exam 1                 | 10% |
| • Exam 2 (cumulative)    | 15% |
| • Short Writing, Quizzes | 20% |
| • Participation          | 15% |
| • Ringuette Cup          | 10% |

### Course Format & Activities ~

This course is primarily a discussion-based course. As such, your success depends upon your active involvement in class discussion and your commitment to careful, close, and sustained reading. Your primary activity in class is twofold: to listen closely to the conversation and engage it actively. Outside of class, your primary activity is to read as much as possible and to prepare for class conversation—which may mean secondary research, looking up words or concepts, preparing response papers, or writing down thoughts and ideas (the latter is particularly good if you're shy about speaking in class). My primary job is to provoke you to do both activities well and to assess your progress.

### Participation ~

Your active participation is required. The focus of this course is on helping you understand the complexity of language and literary works. This requires practice--practice in writing, reading, and discussing. Your questions and insights are vital to the kind of intellectual community we're trying to foster in this course, and, besides regularly soliciting questions, I frequently call on students for input.

### Brief Writings & Quizzes ~

Frequently, you will need to prepare brief writings for class, which are due in class on the assigned date. Such writings are usually related to the text we're reading but the tasks may vary. I usually collect these writings and assign a plus, check,

or minus score (above average, average, below average). Although I expect you to communicate effectively in these writings, you should consider them relatively informal and an opportunity to take some intellectual risks.

You should also expect occasional reading quizzes. As with the brief writing assignments, these activities are designed to foster discussion and locate comprehension problems.

### Papers ~

*Assignment Sheet:* For each major project (there are three), I will hand out an assignment sheet, outlining the specific task(s) and due date. Your writing and thinking in these papers should be careful, substantial, and polished; therefore, you should plan on writing a first draft (which, if you're like me, are almost always weak in some way) so you can have an opportunity to revise.

*Submitting Papers.* Please observe deadlines carefully. Unless you have made prior arrangements with me (or unless it's stipulated in the assignment sheet), you may **not** turn in an assignment via email.

*Late Papers.* Major writing projects will be deducted one letter grade for each calendar day they are late. If you encounter unexpected difficulties in completing your work, please talk to me before the day the assignment is due.

*Revision Policy.* If you want to revise a writing project, you must get prior approval from me, which you need to do in person. It's best to do this in a conference so we can discuss your paper at length (if necessary). Any revisions (or conferences to revise) must be done within one week of receiving (from me) the graded paper.

### Conferences ~

The reading and concepts for this course will be challenging at times. Therefore, it is important for you to come to my office and talk to me if you feel you need some extra help or if we didn't get a chance to discuss your particular concerns during class time. Also, feel free to talk with me about your writing projects. I will be happy to look over your work or help you brainstorm. No question is too small.

### Attendance Policy ~

- You need to attend every class session. I abide by the University's definition of an excused absence, and I generally allow two unexcused absences—no questions asked. On the third absence—and for every absence thereafter—I will deduct 5% from your final grade.
- Six or more absences equate to an automatic "F" for the course.
- For any day that you are not in class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered, new assignments given, changes in the syllabus, or any homework due for the next meeting. Unless the absence is excused, any homework due on a day you were absent may not be turned in late or made up.
- It is also your responsibility to provide the appropriate documentation to verify an excused absence, preferably within a week of the absence.
- Please **do not** email me to tell me you were not in class or why. This is best done in person either after the next class or during my office hours.

### Academic Honesty ~

Students are of course responsible for knowing Eastern Illinois University's regulations and policies regarding academic honesty. Plagiarism, even if unknowing or accidental, can result in your failing the course and in further action by the university. Please note the English Department's statement on plagiarism. Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/ or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me to clarify.

**Computer & Classroom Etiquette~**

You're welcome to bring your notebook computer to class. However, I ask that you observe common rules of etiquette and decorum when you use it. In brief, you may use it to take notes or complete an in-class writing activity. You may not use it for anything not directly related to class work. **Also, please turn off (or mute) cell phones.** Out of respect for the class and the integrity of class activities, absolutely no text messaging during class is allowed.

**Electronic Writing Portfolio ~**

This course is a writing-centered course and, as such, your papers satisfy the requirements for the Electronic Writing Portfolio. If you plan on using work from this course for your EWP, I ask that you complete this before the last two weeks of the semester.

**Students with Disabilities ~**

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.